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(54) **Method and system for hit-less switching**

(57) A system and method are disclosed for processing digital signals in a telecommunications system that allow hit-less switching between a first digital signal in which a first payload, a first payload indicator marker and a first overhead are transported on a first channel, and a second digital signal in which a second payload identical to the first payload, a second payload indicator marker and a second overhead are transported on a second channel. The present invention includes

first and second pointer followers, first and second elastic buffers with control circuits, a monitor circuit, a multiplexer, and a pointer generator. The first and second elastic buffer control circuits each further comprise a write counter, a read counter, a phase detector, and a leak-out mechanism for reinitializing the system after a protection switch. The present invention hit-lessly selects between the first and second digital signals without having to frame align the signals.

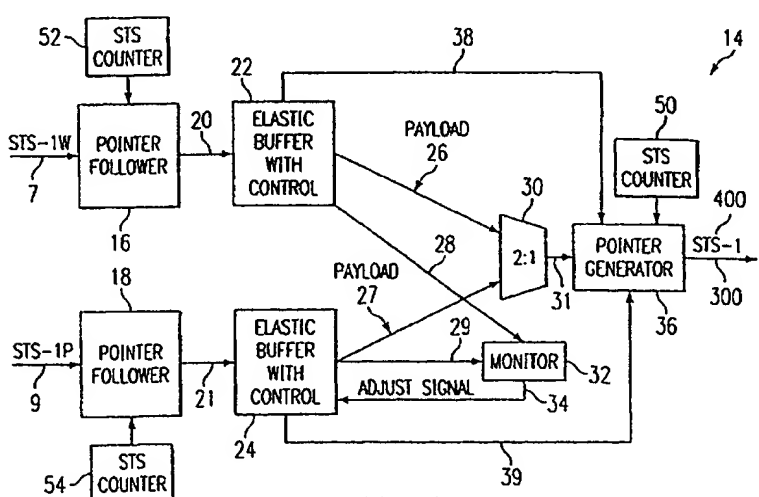


FIG. 3



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 12 0995

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A,D	US 5 051 979 A (CHAUDHURI S ET AL) 24 September 1991 (1991-09-24) * abstract * * figures 2,4-8 * * column 2, line 5 - column 2, line 34 * * column 5, line 57 - column 6, line 25 * * claims 1,2,7,8,10,11,16,17 * -----	1-33	H04B1/74
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H04J H04B H04L H04Q
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 August 2002	Examiner Molinari, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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28-08-2002

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